

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03338 131022Z

53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 /064 W

----- 067910

R 130934Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8425

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3338

CHIANG MAI 043 DATED 13 FEB 76 SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE TO
BANGKOK REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 043

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINTS, TH

SUB3:5: LESE MAJESTE APOLOGY ATTEMPT BY CMU STUDENTS

REF: (A) CHIANG MAI 033, (B) CHIANG MAI 037

1. MORNING FEB. 12 3,000 CMU STUDENTS GATHERED AT FOOT
OF MOUNTAIN LEADING TO PHUPING PALACE WITH INTENTION OF
MARCHING UP TO APOLOGIZE TO KING FOR LESE MAJESTE COM-
METTED BY CMU STUDENT PRASOET LOITRAKUN. THEIR WAY WAS
BLOCKED, HOWEVER, BY SEVERAL HUNDRED VOCATIONAL STUDENTS
AND NAWAPON MEMBERS WHO INSISTED CMU STUDENTS' REAL
PURPOSE WAS TO REQUEST AMNESTY FOR PRASOET FROM HIS
MAJESTY. CMU VICE RECTOR AND CM POLICE CHIEF TOLD CMU
STUDENTS KING NOT AT PALACE; THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD
RETURN TO CAMPUS (WHICH THEY DID).

2. SITUATION FURTHER DEFUSED BY HIS MAJESTY'S

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 03338 131022Z

REPRESENTATIVE BEING SENT DOWN TO CMU LATER IN MORNING

TO RECEIVE LETTER OF APOLOGY. MH REP THANKED STUDENTS FOR THEIR ATTEMPT TO GO UP TO PALACE TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON AND SAID THEIR MAJESTIES NOW WANTED STUDENTS TO RETURN QUIETLY TO CLASSES.

3. PRASOET HAS BEEN EXPELLED FROM UNIVERSITY AND IS BEING HELD FOR TRIAL IN CHIANG MAI MUANG DISTRICT JAIL. POLICE SOURCES STATE HE HAS ALREADY CONFESSED AND RE-ENACTED CRIME. UNDERSTAND HE WILL MAKE COURT APPEARANCE FEB 16.

4. COMMENT: INCIDENT HAS CAUSED SHARP UPSURGE IN NORMAL "TOWNIES" VS. CMU STUDENTS' ANTIPATHY. PRASOET SEEMS TO HAVE SOME SUPPORTERS WITHIN CMU COMMUNITY AND, INDEED, STUDENT UNION HAS NOT CONDEMNED HIM AS YET, DESPITE PUBLIC DEMANDS THAT IT DO SO.

HARBIN
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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